

FLU MENACE PASSING SAYS HEALTH CHIEF

Retention of Masks Held Essential, However, Until Danger of the Disease Is Stamped Out

Number of Deaths and New Cases Steadily Decreasing; S. F. Leads in Fighting Epidemic

So marked an improvement in the influenza situation in San Francisco was noted yesterday that the Health Department began to dispense with some of the extra help that was employed when the disease was on the flood.

"It looks very promising," said Health Officer W. G. Hassler. "There has been an appreciable falling-off in the number of new cases reported, and the death rate is being lowered."

The total of new cases reported yesterday was 834, and the deaths 10. This brings the grand total of San Francisco cases to 19,588, and deaths 1,085.

Dr. Hassler said that San Francisco is now one month ahead of any Eastern city in the work of mastering the epidemic.

MASKS STILL ESSENTIAL

"This city will win out against the disease," said Hassler, "if only the people will continue to wear the influenza masks. If they grow careless in view of the present improvement, there surely will be a renewal of the epidemic, and many more lives will be sacrificed."

"The people of the city practically hold their lives in their own hands. If they go right ahead obeying all the preventive rules that have been laid down, they will soon see the city free of the disease. If they fail to protect themselves fully, they will cause the disease to flare up again, and there will be more thousands of victims."

RELIEF PROMISED SOON

Dr. Hassler said that the health authorities would remove restrictions from the people just as soon as it appeared to be safe to do so.

"It is realized by the Health Department," said Hassler, "that the preventive mask is uncomfortable and inconvenient, but it is highly necessary. This rule will be recalled just as soon as possible. As to most of the other rules of personal care, they are pretty good health rules to be applied at all times. The health of the city will be much better if the people will make a habit of doing the things they are now doing because of a lively fear of disease and death."

THOUSANDS VACCINATED

Several thousand men, women and children were vaccinated yesterday with the Leary preventive vaccine, and Health Officer Hassler urged that every person in the city should receive this treatment at the hospitals, where vaccination is being done free of cost. At Mt. Zion Hospital alone, 230 persons were vaccinated yesterday between 10 and 12 o'clock. Superintendent Louis C. Levy announced that in order to accommodate working men and women, the vaccination station would be kept open tomorrow between 10 and 12 o'clock.